

Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Handling facility at a seaport or inner harbor with a container terminal arranged alongside a wharf, said container terminal including individual storage modules arranged in rows, and at least one loading facility interacting with the storage modules for the cargo handling to and from a ship docked at the wharf, said handling facility comprising:

at least one elevated stacking crane per storage module, said at least one elevated stacking crane handling the receiving, the horizontal transporting, and the stacking of the containers;

cross transporters acting independently of each other and able to travel on a different horizontal level transverse to the individual storage modules, said cross transporters being responsible for the horizontal transporting of containers between the storage modules;

more than two of said cross transporters being adapted to move on a same level beneath a transport level of said at least one elevated stacking crane and above truck loading lanes on at least one railway extending transversely to the storage modules into a region of and connecting the storage modules to one other; and

interim storage stations assigned adjacent to each storage module, each of said interim storage stations being arranged sideways and parallel to said at least one railway and beneath the transport level of said at least one elevated stacking crane assigned to this storage module, and forming wherein said interim storage stations form interfaces between said at least one elevated stacking crane and said cross transporters, wherein said at least one elevated stacking crane and said cross transporters are both adapted to load and unload the containers from the interim storage stations.

2. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 1, wherein each cross transporter is outfitted with a transfer or receiving device for moving a container from or to an interim storage station.

3. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 2, wherein said transfer or receiving device includes a load carrier for the container that can shift or travel into the region of the interim storage station, transverse to the direction of travel of said cross transporter.

4. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 3, wherein said load carrier is configured as a linear driven shunt cart, said shunt cart adapted to travel on another railway arranged on said cross transporters.

5. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 4, wherein said interim storage stations are configured as angle brackets and reach at least partially freely across said at least one railway and one said cross transporter so that said load carrier can travel underneath one said interim storage station when said one said cross transporter is positioned underneath that interim storage station and further including sideways running open slots in the horizontal part of the angle bracket in the direction of said load carrier, said slots engaged by vertical lifting devices for the container, arranged on said load carrier and reaching underneath support points of the container.

6. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 5, wherein said vertical lifting devices of the load carrier are configured as hydraulic piston and cylinder units.

7. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 6, wherein said at least one railway comprises at least two railways running parallel to each other traverse the container terminal transverse to the storage modules, said at least two railways being joined together at the head end by change-over devices for said one said cross transporter, in order to enable a switching of said one said cross transporter from one of said at least two railways to the other of said at least two railways.

8. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 7, including driving lanes for trucks that travel underneath said at least one railway.

9. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 8, including loading lanes for trucks that travel underneath alongside the interim storage stations.

10. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 7, wherein said cross transporters are timed to travel in a particular direction of turning on said at least two railways and said change-over devices.

11. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 7, wherein said change-over devices each include a bridgelike steel structure with lengthwise running railways, whose gauges correspond to those of said at least two railways for the cross transporters, and said change-over devices are provided with rail travel mechanisms at the front end, which can travel on said lengthwise running railways between said at least two railways of the cross transporters that are elevated at the head end transverse to said at least two railways of the cross transporters and move into end positions in which said at least two railways on the bridgelike steel structure are aligned with one of said at least two railways for the cross transporter.

12. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 7, wherein said interim storage stations are fastened by the vertical legs of said angle brackets to the side of the girders for said at least two railways and are configured to accommodate up to four containers per storage module.

13. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 1, wherein said interim storage stations are configured as angle brackets and reach at least partially freely across said at least one railway and one said cross transporter so that said load carrier can travel underneath one said interim storage station when said one said cross transporter is positioned underneath that interim storage station and further including sideways running open slots in the horizontal part of the angle bracket in the direction of said load carrier, said slots engaged by vertical lifting devices for the container, arranged on said load carrier and reaching underneath support points of the container.

14. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 13, wherein said vertical lifting devices of the load carrier are configured as hydraulic piston and cylinder units.

15. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 2, wherein said interim storage stations are configured as angle brackets and reach at least partially freely across said at least one railway and one said cross transporter so that said load carrier can travel underneath one said interim storage station when said one said cross transporter is positioned underneath that interim storage station and further including sideways running open slots in the horizontal part of the angle bracket in the direction of said load carrier, said slots engaged by vertical lifting devices for the container, arranged on said load carrier and reaching underneath support points of the container.

16. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 15, wherein said vertical lifting devices of the load carrier are configured as hydraulic piston and cylinder units.

17. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 3, wherein said interim storage stations are configured as angle brackets and reach at least partially freely across said at least one railway and one said cross transporter so that said load carrier can travel underneath one said interim storage station when said one said cross transporter is positioned underneath that interim storage station and further including sideways running open slots in the horizontal part of the angle bracket in the direction of said load carrier, said slots engaged by vertical lifting devices for the container, arranged on said load carrier and reaching underneath support points of the container.

18. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 17, wherein said vertical lifting devices of the load carrier are configured as hydraulic piston and cylinder units.

19. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 1, wherein said at least one railway comprises at least two railways running parallel to each other traverse the container terminal

transverse to the storage modules, said at least two railways being joined together at the head end by change-over devices for said one said cross transporter, in order to enable a switching of said one said cross transporter from one of said at least two railways to the other of said at least two railways.

20. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 1, including driving lanes for trucks that travel underneath said at least one railway.

21. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 1, wherein said loading lanes travel underneath alongside the interim storage stations.

22. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 19, wherein said cross transporters are timed to travel in a particular direction of turning on said at least one railway and said change-over devices.

23. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 19, wherein said change-over devices each include a bridgelike steel structure with lengthwise running railways, whose gauges correspond to those of said at least two railways for the cross transporters, and said change-over devices are provided with rail travel mechanisms at the front end, which can travel on said lengthwise running railways between said at least two railways of the cross transporters that are elevated at the head end transverse to said at least two railways of the cross transporters and move into end positions in which said at least two railways on the bridgelike steel structure are aligned with one of said at least two railways for the cross transporter.

24. (Previously Presented) Handling facility according to Claim 1, wherein said interim storage stations are fastened by the vertical legs of said angle brackets to the side of the girders for said at least two railways and are configured to accommodate up to four containers per storage module.